

November 6, 2008 Update

Update for the Hearing Screening (Schools) Rulemaking Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.), Title 9, Chapter 13, Article 1

The current rules implementing Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) §§ 36-899.01 and 36-899.02 for the hearing screening of students are located in Title 9, Chapter 13, Article 1 of the Arizona Administrative Code.

The Department is revising these rules to more clearly specify:

- The students who:
 - Are required to receive a hearing screening,
 - May not receive a hearing screening, and
 - May be screened at the discretion of the school's hearing screening administrator;
- When a hearing screening may not be performed for a student;
- How a hearing screening is to be conducted;
- The criteria for passing a hearing screening;
- What a school administrator is required to do if a student does not pass an initial hearing screening;
- When a school administrator is required to notify the parents or guardians of students, and what actions the school administrator is to recommend the parents or guardians take;
- The qualifications of screeners who perform hearing screening for students;
- The standards for equipment used for hearing screening;
- The documents a school administrator is required to retain regarding hearing screening provided for a student; and
- What information a school administrator is required to submit to the Department when reporting hearing screening results, when the information is due, and how it is to be submitted.

The Department completed a draft of the revised rules, posted the draft hearing screening rules on the Department's web page for informal public comment, and received informal comments on the draft rules. The Department has also met with representatives of the Arizona Department of Education, the Arizona School Nurse Consortium, First Things First, the EAR Foundation of Arizona, T3 - Train the Trainer Program, the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, school districts, parents, and others to review the draft rules. Based on the discussion and the comments received, the Department is revising the draft rules and expects to post a new draft by November 12, 2008.

Stakeholders can communicate their issues, comments, or concerns to Ruthann Smejkal, Rules Analyst for the Department, by e-mail at smejkar@azdhs.gov, by phone at 602-364-1230, or by fax at 602-364-1150.